

CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week

MEETING DATE: April 16, 2003

PREPARED BY: City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Mayor Hitchcock present a proclamation proclaiming the week of April 28 – May 4, 2003, as "Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week" in the City of Lodi.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Mayor has been requested to present a proclamation proclaiming the week of April 28 – May 4, 2003, as "Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week" in the City of Lodi. Eddie Lucchesi, Assistant Manager of the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District, will be at the meeting to accept the proclamation.

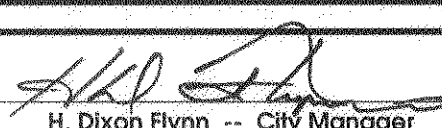
FUNDING: None required.



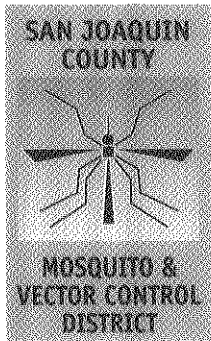
Susan J. Blackston
City Clerk

SJB/JMP

APPROVED: _____



H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager



JOHN R. STROH
MANAGER

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April 3, 2003

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APR 04 2003

City Clerk
City of Lodi

Honorable Susan Hitchcock
Mayor
City of Lodi
221 W. Pine Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Dear Mayor Hitchcock:

On behalf of the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District, I am writing to respectfully request that the City of Lodi adopt the enclosed resolution recognizing April 28 to May 4, 2003 as "Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week." The resolution is modeled after Assembly Concurrent Resolution 52, sponsored by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California, and adopted by the California Legislature.

This district and dozens of others throughout the state are bracing for the arrival of West Nile virus as early as this spring. West Nile virus is a virulent and potentially deadly form of encephalitis that poses a grave threat to the health and safety of all Californians, particularly seniors and the very young. The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes and spread primarily by infected birds. In just three years (since it's arrival in New York City in 1999), West Nile virus has killed nearly three hundred people, sickened thousands of others, and spread to 44 states. A West Nile virus outbreak in our state not only threatens public health, but California's tourism and health care industries and our economic recovery.

By recognizing this week, the city of Lodi can increase public awareness of the West Nile virus threat and encourage Lodi residents to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites on their property and take necessary precautions when mosquito activity is high. Appropriately, we think, the measure also recognizes the good work of mosquito control districts, public health agencies and their professional staffs that work year-round to control mosquitoes, preventing the spread of disease and allowing all of us to enjoy the outdoors.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We hope the City of Lodi will find it worthwhile to recognize "Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week" April 28 to May 4, 2003. If you have any questions about the resolution or seek additional information about West Nile virus or the work of the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District, please do not hesitate to call me at 982-4675.

Warm Regards,

John R. Stroh
Manager

**RESOLUTION
DECLARING
APRIL 28 – MAY 4, 2003
MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL
AND WEST NILE VIRUS AWARENESS WEEK.**

RESOLUTION –

Relative to Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 28 through May 4, 2003, Mosquito and Vector Control and West Nile Virus Awareness Week.

WHEREAS, the City of Lodi recognizes that West Nile Virus – a virulent and potentially deadly form of encephalitis – poses a grave threat to the health and safety of all Californians as early as this spring and for the foreseeable future, and

WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control, monitoring and public awareness programs are the best way to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors, and

WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including but not limited to ticks, Africanized Honey Bees, rats, fleas, and flies, continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, death and a public nuisance in California and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors spread diseases of humans, livestock, and wildlife, reduce enjoyment of outdoor living spaces, both public and private, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work, reduce livestock productivity; and

WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors can disperse or be transported long distances from their sources and are, therefore, a health risk and public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based on scientific research has made great advances in reducing mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit; and

WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector-borne viruses that can cause human illness or even death have been routinely found in mosquitoes and other vectors in over one half of the counties in California; and

WHEREAS, Mosquitoes that are commonly found within California are known vectors of the West Nile virus, which has struck with deadly force throughout the United States in recent years; and